

Whitacre, Harold

Drawer 19A

Artists-W

71. 2009 085. 02709

Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Harold Whitacre

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
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Portrait of Lincoln Unveiled.

Lerna Co. L. B. Whitacre June 2-1933
It being Flag Day another historical event took place Saturday afternoon. It was the informal unveiling of a portrait of Abraham Lincoln, as he appeared when inaugurated president of the United States, drawn by Harold Whitacre, a young teacher and artist residing in Lerna, Geo. T. Balch who attended school in Farmington at the time the president elect paid his last visit to Sarah Bush Lincoln, says that the portrait is a splendid picture of Mr. Lincoln's appearance at that time, and as he distinctly remembers him.



After the portrait had been placed on the easel, which had been erected, opposite the First National Bank, at the intersection of Main and Fourth streets, the meeting was called to order by R. G. Hall, beneath the spreading boughs of the maple at Kimery's, who in a few well chosen words explained the object of the gathering and concluded by calling on Mayor Foltz to preside as chairman. On assuming his position he called in turn on the following for short addresses: Elder F. M. Tate, Rev. Carl Hearn, George T. Balch and A. Sumerlin and the meeting was brought to a close by prayer by Elder F. M. Tate.

Mr. Balch's remarks were deeply

interesting from the fact that he related many incidents in the life of Lincoln that are not recorded in the histories, and he concluded by feelingly referring to President Lincoln as he appeared and conducted himself on his last visit to his step-mother in February, 1861. A few days after bidding Sarah Bush Lincoln farewell he was on his way to Washington to be inaugurated president of the the United States.

The dwelling in which the parting scene took place still stands in Farmington and is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Orlando Annis.

When the proposition was presented to J. M. Haddock to have a portrait painted of Mr. Lincoln by Harold Whitacre he was so deeply impressed with the project that he volunteered to furnish the lumber and do all the work necessary. In a day or so the boards were highly finished and placed in a frame ready for the artist and a few days later appeared the life-like portrait of Abraham Lincoln which has received the plaudits and admiration of everyone who has viewed it.

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1871